

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Exploring Mood

Mood is the feeling the reader gets from reading a piece of writing. Another way to describe mood is *atmosphere*. When you walk into a place, it has an atmosphere that makes you feel a certain way; when you "walk into" a story, it too has an atmosphere that creates a feeling. Writers create mood through word choice, imagery, dialogue, setting, and plot.

1. Below are some positive and negative words that you might use to describe the mood in different sections of "Why Are Your Clothes So Cheap?" Read the lists, then add your own words on the lines provided.

POSITIVE	
inspired	hopeful
determined	cheerful
strong	excited
driven	helpful

NEGATIVE	
desperate	worried
sad	helpless
harsh	angry/upset
dangerous	trapped

2. A. Circle the word that best describes the mood of the introduction.

exciting      angry      nightmarish

- B. Explain your answer.

The beginning of the article sets up a terrifying scene. The 1st two paragraphs describe Kalpona's job as difficult and uncomfortable.

3. Consider the section "Harsh Reality."

- A. What is the mood in the beginning of this section? Use details from the text to support your answer.

The mood is happy. The author describes her life before she worked in the garment factory; before her father's stroke, when they lived in a 1-bedroom house, with lush gardens helped create the mood.

- B. Describe how the mood shifts in this section.

The mood becomes unpleasant (tragic) when "she was 12 yr. old, her life chgd forever." Her father's stroke devastated the family & his inability to work left the family no choice but to sell their belongings.

4. Choose another point in the article where the mood shifts. Explain what the mood shifts from and what it shifts to. Support your answer with details from the text.

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5. What is the mood of the following excerpt from the section "First Day"? Explain your answer.

At lunch—the only break she would get in what would be an agonizing 14-hour day—Kalpona went up to the roof of the building. From there, she glimpsed her old school. She could see her friends playing in the school yard, their blue-and-white uniforms blazing bright in the afternoon light.

And that's when it hit Kalpona: She would never go back to school. Her old life was gone.

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6. Consider the following excerpt from the section "Angry and Inspired":

After the fire, Kalpona had no choice but to return to work. But something happened to her. As she sat at her sewing machine, day after day, earning her meager wage, she became angry—and inspired. She began attending classes at a local nonprofit organization, where she learned that the factory owners were breaking the law. She tried to organize her fellow workers into a union. As a group they could bargain with the factory owners. If the owners refused to treat them fairly, they could strike.

For her efforts, Kalpona was fired. Yet she only became more determined to change the lives of garment workers in Bangladesh.

What mood do these lines create? Explain.

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